

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INVENTOR(S) : James A. Kost et al.  
TITLE : SPREADER  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. : MPEE 2 00023-3-2  
Cleveland, OH 44114

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee and prior to substantive examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 15 of this paper.

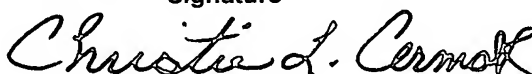
---

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being

- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, addressed to: MAIL STOP , Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ transmitted via facsimile under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below.
- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: MAIL STOP Patent Application, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Express Mail Label No.:
EV 340035690 US
Date
January 8, 2004

Signature

Printed Name
Christie L. Cermak